

First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on SARD and Forestry

SARD-M Policy Assessment in Poland

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Sustainable Agriculture
and Rural Development
MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT

Polish Carpathians

General Facts

The Carpathians in Poland are located along the country's southern border and occupy about **6,2 %** (19386,50 sq. km) of its total area.

About **9,3%** of the total area of the Carpathians are on the Polish territory.





Polish Carpathians

General Facts



Polish Carpathians occupy parts of three provinces/voivodeships: Śląskie (Silesia), Małopolskie (Lesser Poland) and Podkarpackie (Sub-Carpathian).

The Polish segment of the Carpathian range is 300-km-long.

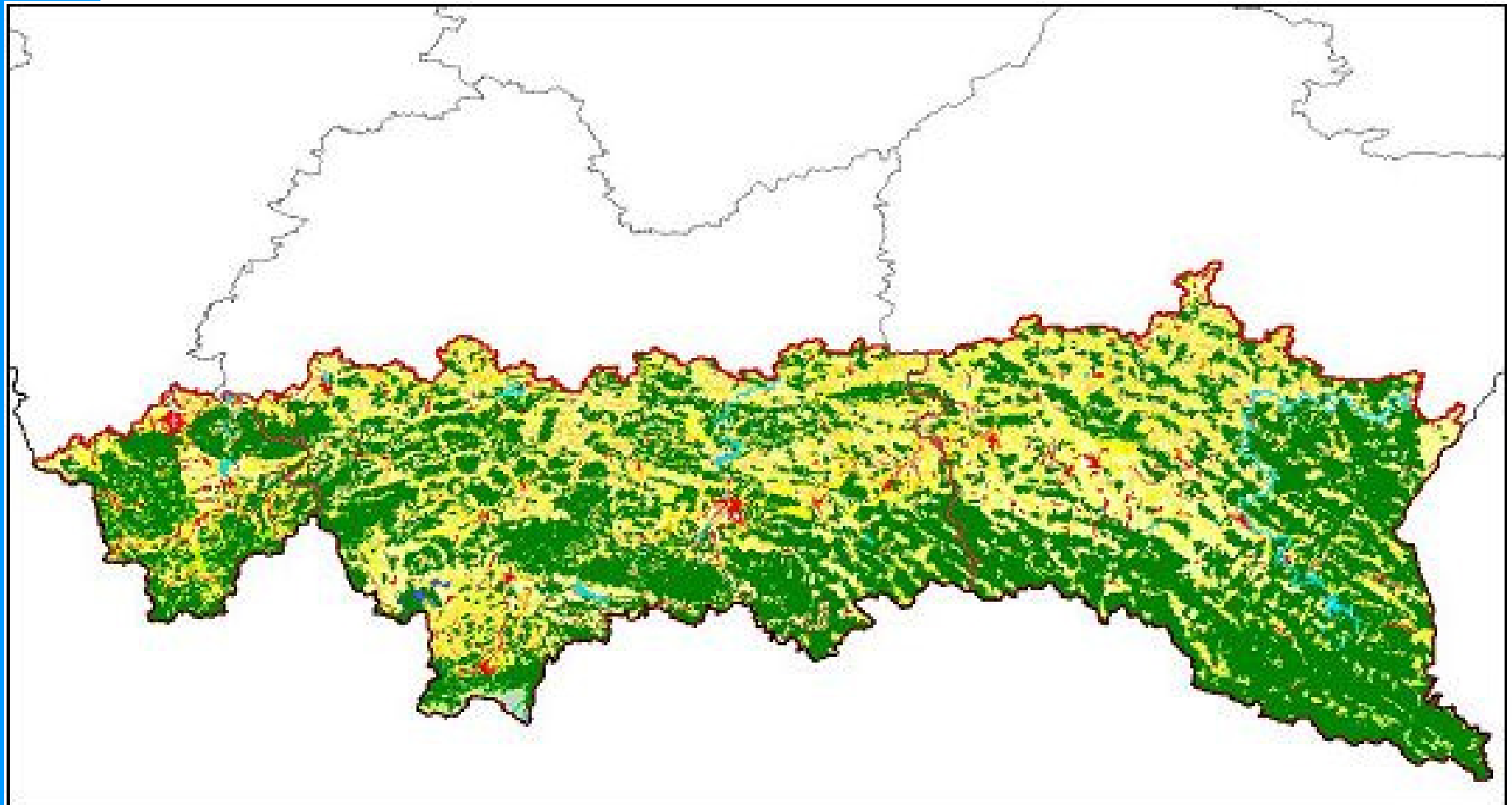


Structure of land use

Land Use		Poland	Polish Carpathians
Forests		28,90 %	39,47 %
Arable lands		52,20 %	44,11 %
out of which:			
	orchards, permanent crops	1,00 %	0,05 %
	pastures, grasslands	13,00 %	3,51 %
Waters		2,00 %	5,15 %
Other lands		15,90 %	11,27 %

Source: Corine Land Cover 2000

Structure of land use



artificial surface; arable land; grassland; forest; water bodies

Polish Carpathians

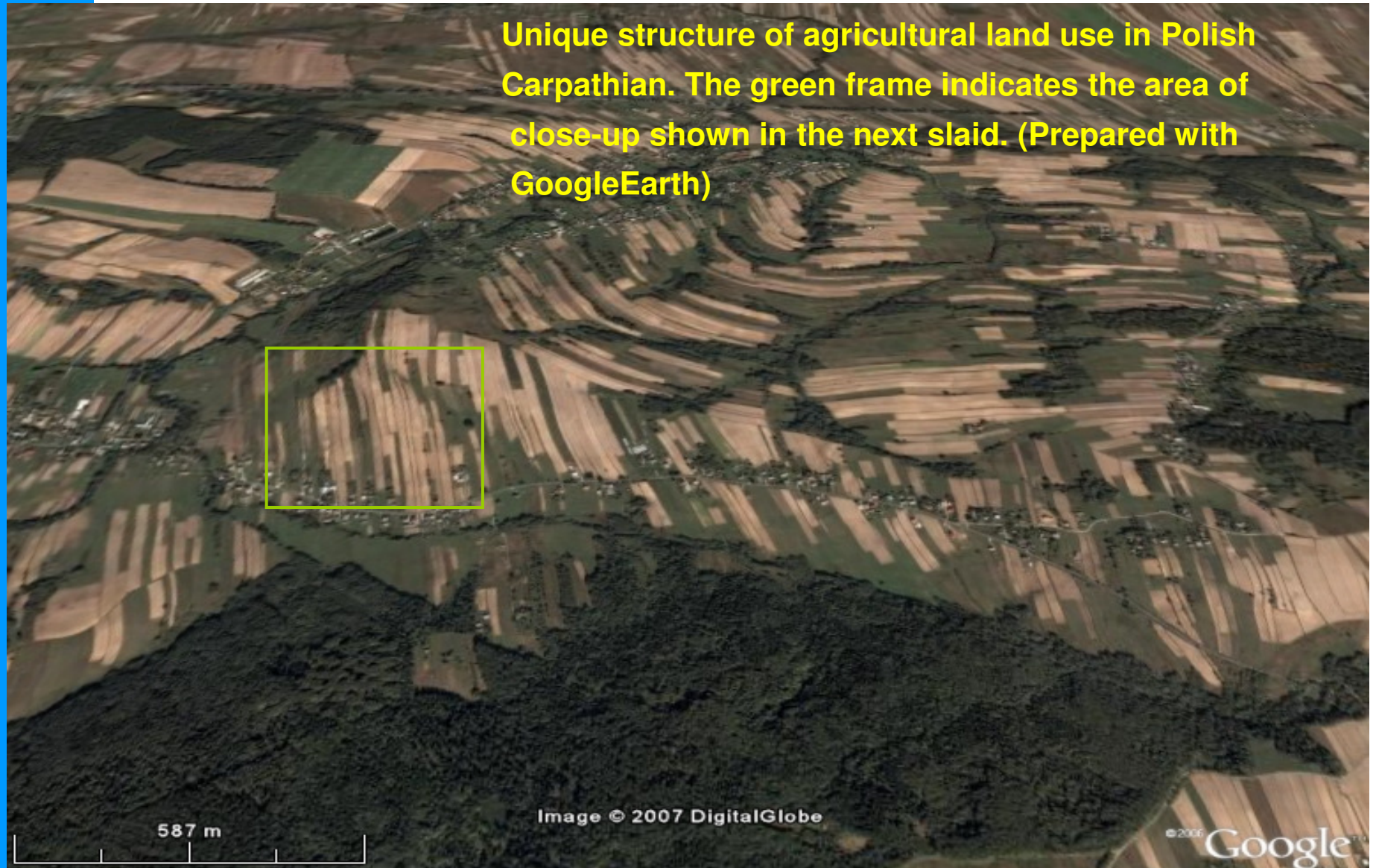
Specificities of Agriculture

- Average size of farms below 5 ha.
- Dispersed agrarian structure – large number of small farms, divided into many separate land plots which are usually very narrow and long, divided by boundary-strips and field shrubs.
- Rich biological diversity and rural landscape diversity – a result of the predominantly traditional, extensive agriculture
- Region of concentration of organic farming
- Region of sheep farming - 40% of the sheep farms in PL is located in Carpathians

Polish Carpathians

Specificities of Agriculture

Unique structure of agricultural land use in Polish Carpathian. The green frame indicates the area of close-up shown in the next slaid. (Prepared with GoogleEarth)



Polish Carpathians

Specificities of Agriculture

Specific arrangement of cultivated land with very narrow and long fields divided by boundary-strips and field shrubs



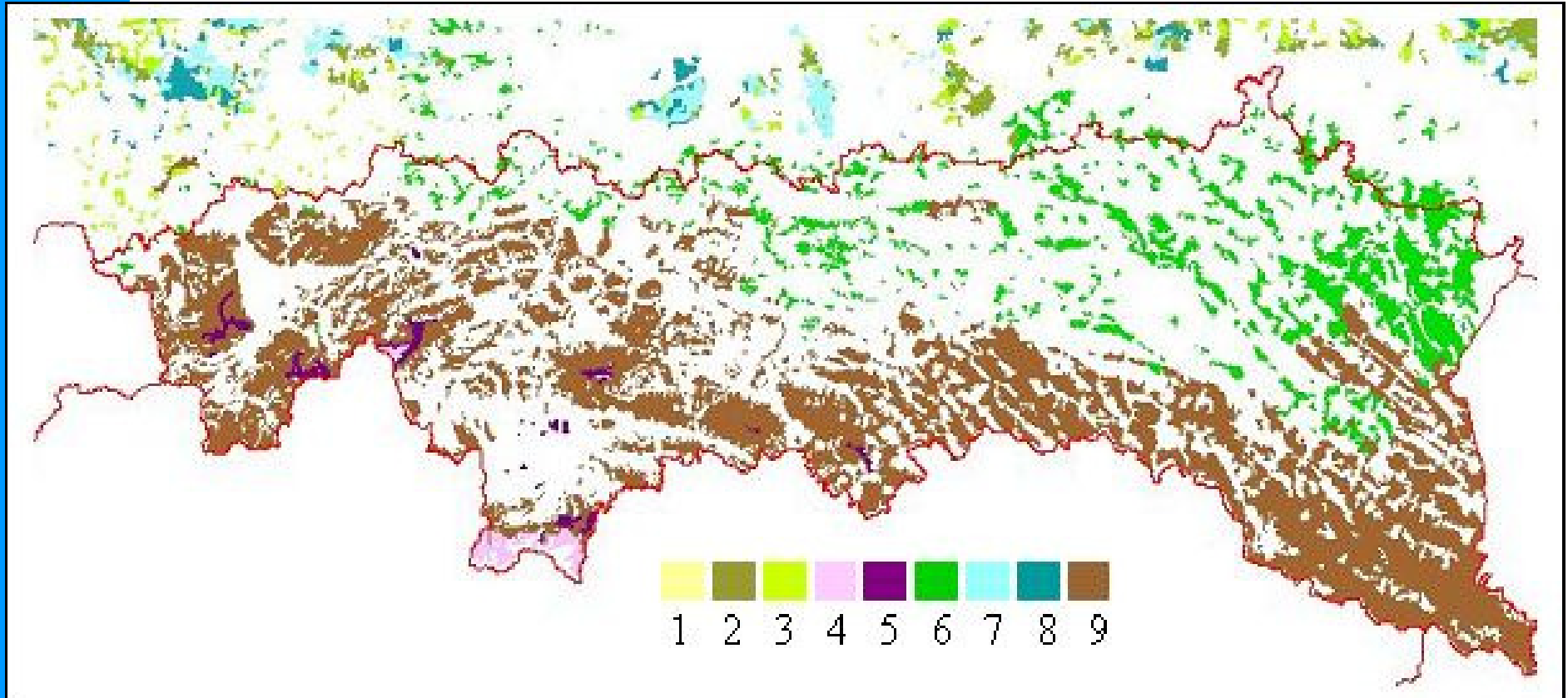
Polish Carpathians

Specificities of Forestry Sector

- Average age of tree stands is about 50 years.
- Most of trees are up to 40-years-old.
- Noticeable increase in the number of older trees (average age of over 70 years).
- Coniferous forests are dominant in the structure
- Trees species structure:
 - *Pinus sylvestris*-Scots pine **17%**;
 - *Picea*-spruce (-tree) **21,70%**;
 - *Fagus sylvatica*-European beech **25.30%**;
 - *Abies*; fir (-tree) **25,00%**.

Polish Carpathians

Specificities of Forestry Sector



1 - fresh coniferous forest, 2 - fresh mixed coniferous forest, 3 - fresh mixed forest, fresh broadleaved forest, 4 - high-mountain coniferous forest, 5 - mixed mountain coniferous forest, 6 - mixed upland forest, 7 - moist mixed coniferous forest, 8 - moist mixed forest, boggy mixed forest, 9 - mountain forest, mixed mountain forest

Distribution of main forest habitats in the Carpathians. Source: IBL and UNEP/GRID-Warsaw

Polish Carpathians

Specificities of Forestry Sector

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	in hectares				
forest areas	215761	216376	271972	272142	272464
private forests	35970	36199	38208	38542	38594
	16%	17%	14%	14%	14%
	in hectares				
afforestation	645	718	512	809	301
afforestation in private forests	374	508	422	673	188

Forest areas and afforestation in hectares in the Carpathians. Source: Regional Data Bank, Central Statistical Office of Poland

Polish Carpathians

Specificities of Forestry Sector

Forest distribution in The Polish Carpathians - general view. Forests are represented by dark green colour



Entry Point for the Assessment

Main reference sources:

- The results and achievements of previous activities and initiatives focused on Carpathians in the field of agriculture, rural development and forestry (e.g. Mountain Memorial, Carpathian Memorial, initiated by the Tatra Euroregion; Functional Area of the Green Carpathians initiated and Coalition for Sustainable Development of the Carpathians initiated by the League for Nature Conservation);
- The provisions of the art. 7th of CFC;

Entry Point for the Assessment

Aspect and issues:

- a multi-functional approach to the development of rural areas and integrated agriculture;
- focus on non-farming activities in rural areas;
- integrated action for preservation of rural ecosystems;
- sustainable forestry and forest management;
- retraining programmes for surplus workforce in the region
- fostering access to information and education about EU support programmes

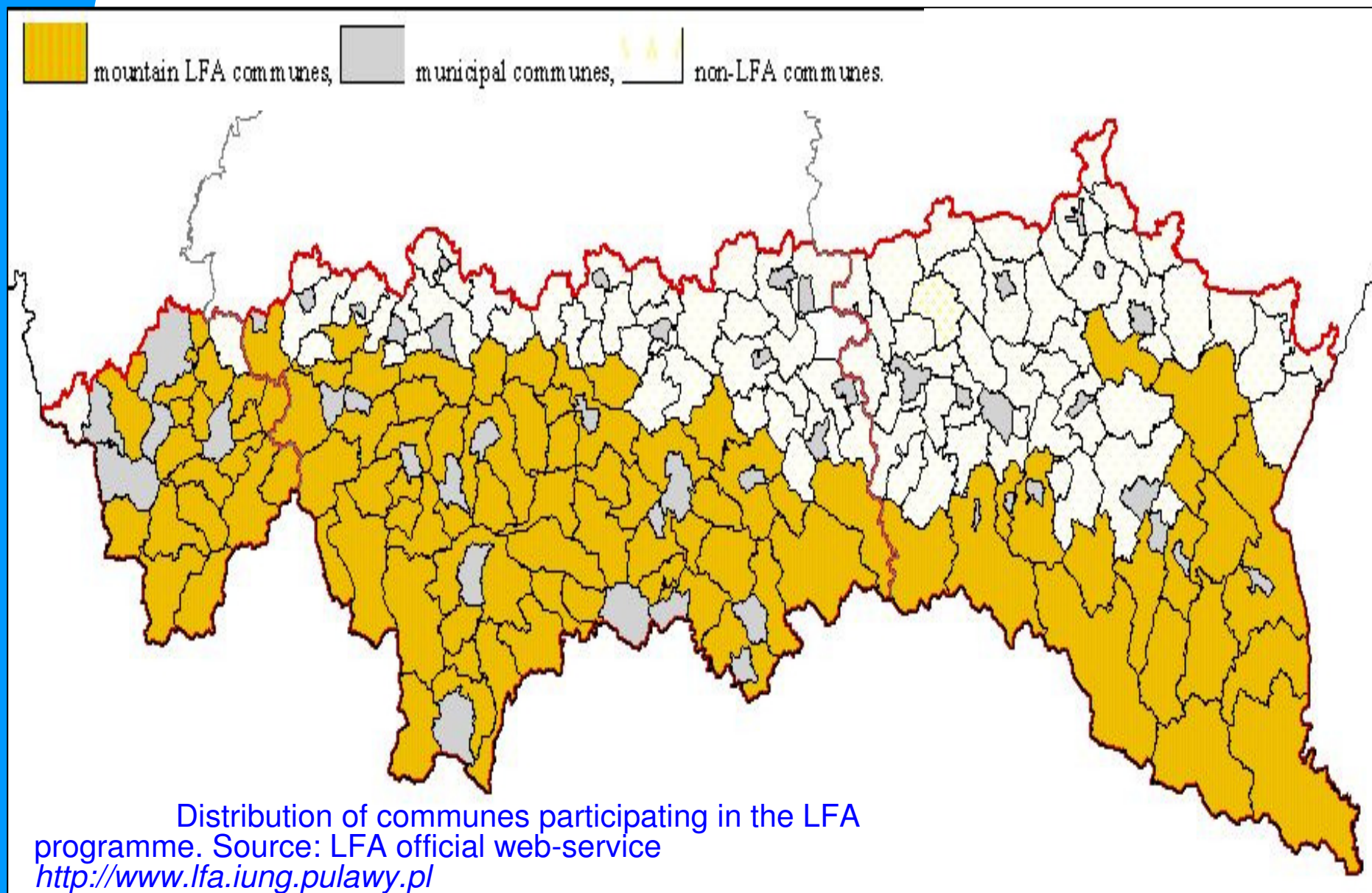
National Policy Framework

- There is no law on the mountain regions in PL
- There is no direct reference to the specificity of mountain regions in national strategies
- Indirect correspondence is based on core guidelines and directions formulated for plans of actions to be conducted at the regional level
- There is lack of direct references to the specificity of a given geographic region. The only form of regionalization is administrative regionalization.
- There is a complementary approach to sustainable agriculture in the framework of agri-environmental programmes, represented by their principles related to supporting nature conservation at Natura 2000 sites located in the Carpathians.

National Policy Framework

- The only programme directly targeted at mountain areas is the Less Favoured Areas Programme.
- Regional and local programmes do frequently refer to the specificity of the Carpathian mountains, mainly through an integrated approach to preservation of cultural heritage, rural landscape, development and support of multifunctional agriculture (eco-farming, eco-tourism, folk crafts, traditional products etc) – *The Sheep Programme*, *the Taste of(Malopolska, Silesia, Podkarpacie)*, *Coalition for Sustainable Development of the Carpathians*.
- A clear correspondence is also within the LEADER programme because of its essential goal which is the establishment of *Local Action Groups* which are strongly “embedded” in the Carpathian region.

Less Favoured Areas



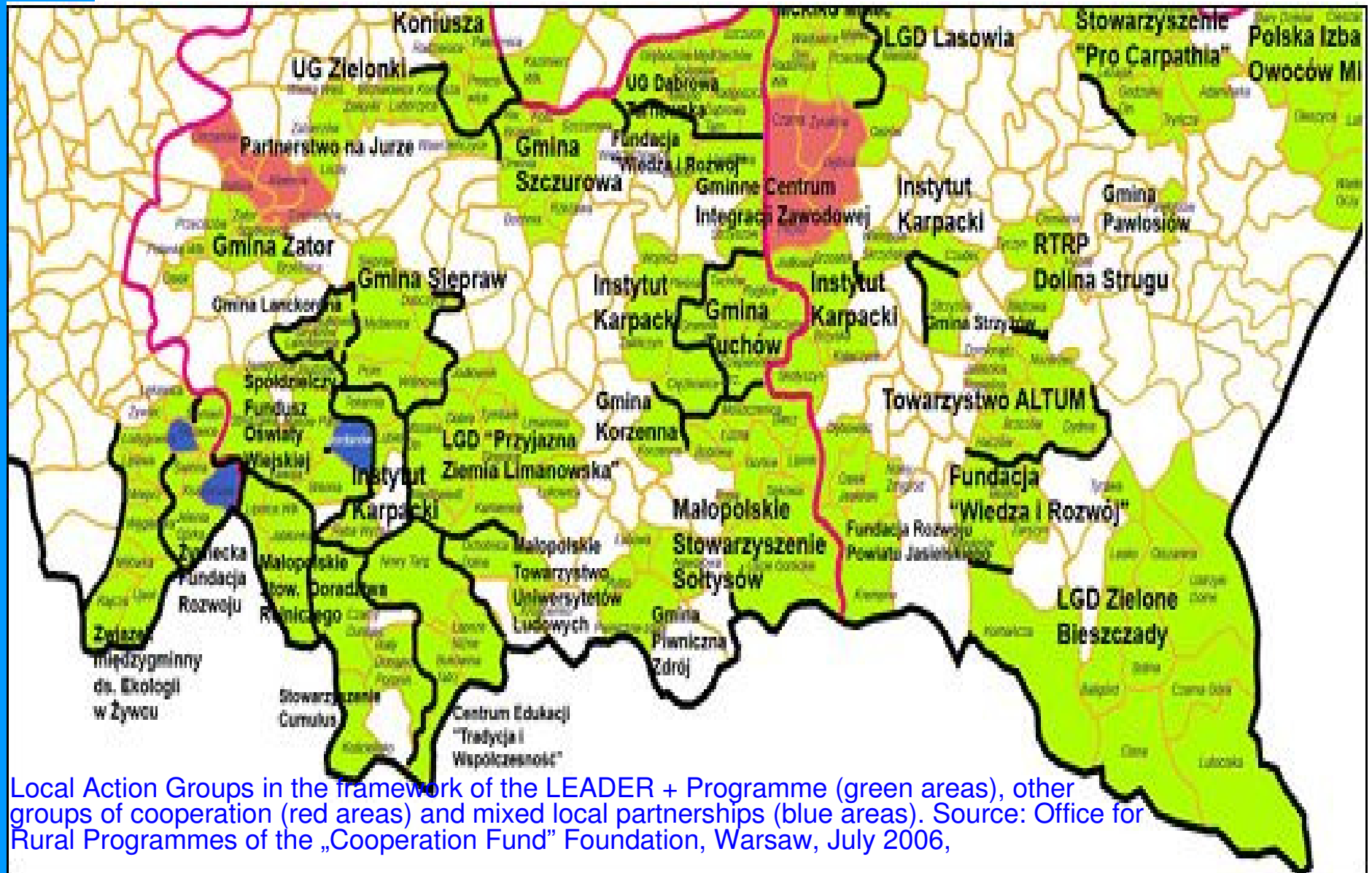
The taste of Malopolska

Project *The taste of Malopolska* as an example of promotion of regional products.

The map shows places of origin of traditional products called “Malopolskie delicacies”



Local Action Group – Leader + Programme



Local Action Groups in the framework of the LEADER + Programme (green areas), other groups of cooperation (red areas) and mixed local partnerships (blue areas). Source: Office for Rural Programmes of the „Cooperation Fund” Foundation, Warsaw, July 2006,

Characteristic of Institutions and Processes / SARD – M Policies

National level:

- “Horizontal” cooperation at the Ministerial level between the Ministry of the Environment (ME) and Ministry of the Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) driven by the Natura 2000 Programme.

Regional level:

- Focus on Carpathian uniqueness by development of specially-addressed programmes (e.g. The Sheep Programme).
- Dispersion of activities conducted at the regional level – lack of coherent pan-Carpathian dimension of conducted actions (The Sheep Programme is an exception).
- High level of competence visible among agriculture advisors, especially those who are active in local Carpathian NGOs as well in Regional Centres of Consultancy for Farmers.

Characteristic of Institutions and Processes / SARD – M Policies

Local level:

- Strong commitment and involvement in local initiatives by leading stakeholders and NGO members but also by very small initiative-groups – **openness to local partnerships**,
- Bottom-up actions aiming to establish trans-sectoral networks of cooperation in the “vertical” dimension (*Green Carpathians Initiative*),
- Local NGOs as a “driving force” in fostering communication.

SARD-M Policy Formulation and Implementation Processes

- Much efficient **regional dimension** of administrative processes **than the national one**,
- Level of action associated with implementation of a given policy is regionally diversified,
- **Direct consultation** processes - at the **local level**, (e.g. *Strengthening public participation in implementation of the Carpathian Framework Convention*)
- Well-developed **network of Consultancy Centres for the Farmers**.
- Lack of an integrated Land Information System in Poland - difficulties in develop of a coherent monitoring system.

SWOT analysis

Strengths

- High percentage of farmers have access to, and willingness to use, EU support (LFA).
- Preservation of extensive ways of farming and strong commitment of the farmers to a land („little homeland“).
- Rapid increase of organic farming – market development for organic food.
- High percentage of nature conservation areas.
- Bottom-up cooperation and initiatives.
- Complementary actions between Natura 2000 and agri-environmental programmes (national level).

SWOT analysis

Weaknesses

- Lack of broad implementation of agri-environmental programmes.
- Lack of trust in EU support.
- Poverty in rural areas – migration to urban areas, abandonment of agricultural land.
- Lack of communication mechanisms (national-> regional level)

SWOT analysis

Opportunities

- **Integrated approach to eco-tourism**
- **LEADER +**
- **The Sheep Programme**

Threats

- EU and National **Bureaucracy.**
- Lack of the participatory approach in the consultation process.
- Insufficient **level of competence** in the field of forest management in **private forests.**
- Decrease (or at least non-increase) of profitability of agricultural production.

Recommendations

- Improvement of the **communication mechanisms**;
- Development and enhancement of the already existing networks of cooperation (e.g. Coalition for sustainable development of the Carpathians, Local Action Groups within the LEADER+ programme);
- Broad implementation of a agrienvironmental programmes with **special Carpathian packages**
- Broader implementation of the integrated approach to consultancy offered to farmers in order to **inspire** them to engage **in multifunctional agriculture.**
- A need for development of effective training mechanisms for owners of private forests in order to secure sustainable forest management.



**Thank
you!**

